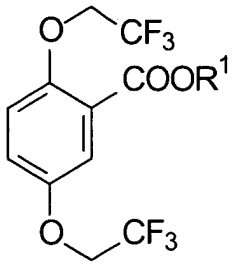
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) Process for the preparation of Flecainide, as Flecainide base or any pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, comprising:

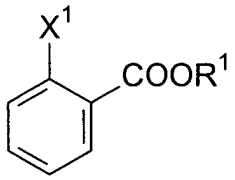
preparation of a compound of formula VI



(VI)

wherein R^1 is H, alkali metal or a C_1 to C_9 alkyl group;

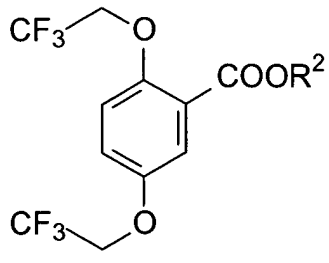
from compounds of formula III



(III)

wherein X^1 is F, Cl, Br or I;

optional conversion of the compound of formula VI to the ester of formula VII by reacting with a hydroxyl compound R^2OH;



(VII)

wherein R^2 is C_1 to C_9 alkyl group, aryl group or succinimidyl;

amide formation of the compound of formula VI or VII forming flecainide base by reacting with 2-(aminomethyl)piperidine and;

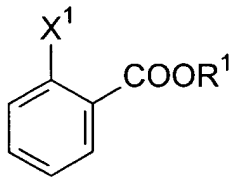
optionally forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the amide formation is selective.

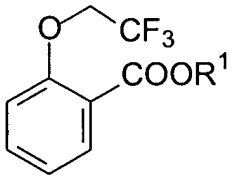
3. (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) Process for the preparation of Flecainide, as Flecainide base or any pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, comprising

reaction of the 2-halobenzoic acid derivatives of formula III with an alkali or alkaline earth metal alkoxide of 2,2,2-trifluoroethanol in the presence of a copper-containing catalyst in a solvent to form 2-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)benzoic acid derivatives of formula IV;



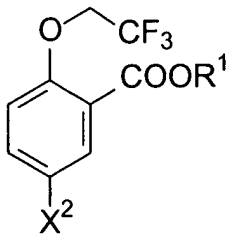
(III)



(IV)

wherein X^1 is F, Cl, Br or I and R^1 is H, alkali metal or a C_1 to C_9 alkyl group;

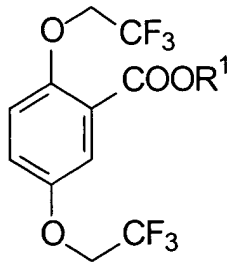
halogenation of the compounds of formula IV to form 5-halo-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)benzoic acid derivatives of formula V;



(V)

wherein X^2 is Cl, Br, or I.

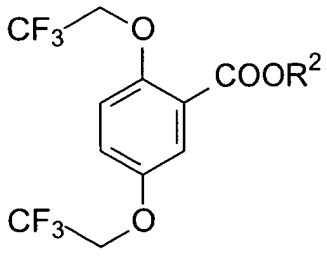
reaction of the compounds of formula V with an alkali or alkaline earth metal alkoxide of 2,2,2-trifluoroethanol in the presence of a copper-containing catalyst in a solvent to form compounds of formula VI;



(VI)

wherein R^1 is H, alkali metal or a C_1 to C_9 alkyl group;

optional conversion of the compounds of formula VI to a new ester of formula VII by reacting with hydroxyl compound R^2OH;



(VII)

wherein R^2 is C_1 to C_9 alkyl group, aryl group or succinimidyl;

selective amide formation by reacting compounds of formula VI or VII with 2-(aminomethyl)piperidine forming flecainide base;

optionally forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. (original) The process of Claim 4 wherein either solvent comprises a polar solvent.

6. (original) The process of Claim 4 wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable salt is the monoacetate salt.

7. (original) The process according to Claim 4, wherein the alkali or alkaline earth metal alkoxide of 2,2,2-trifluoroethoxide is sodium, potassium, calcium or lithium 2,2,2-trifluoroethoxide.

8. (currently amended) The process according to Claim 4, wherein the alkali or alkaline earth metal alkoxide of 2,2,2-trifluoroethanol is synthesized by reacting 2,2,2-trifluoroethanol with a base selected from potassium *tert*-butoxide, sodium *tert*-butoxide, sodium isopropoxide and ~~or~~ sodium methoxide.

9. (cancelled)

10. (currently amended) The process according to Claim ~~9~~ 4 wherein the ~~copper type~~ copper-containing catalyst comprises cupric chloride, cupric bromide, cupric iodide, cuprous chloride, cuprous bromide, cuprous iodide, copper (I) oxide, copper (II) oxide or copper-zinc alloy.

11. (original) The process according to Claim 4, wherein X^2 is Br.

12. (original) The process according to Claim 4, wherein R^2 is selected from methyl, ethyl, benzyl and phenyl.

13. (original) The process according to Claim 4, wherein the compound of formula VI or VII is 2,5-bis-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)benzoate.

14.(original) The process according to Claim 13 wherein any of the reactions is carried out in aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or aromatic solvents from 5 to 10 carbon atoms or ethers from 4 to 10 carbon atoms.

15. (currently amended) The process according to Claim 14, wherein the solvents ~~comprises~~ comprise hexane, heptane, cyclohexane, tetrahydrofuran, 1,2-domethoxyethane, diethyleneglycol dimethyl ether, toluene, xylene, or acetonitrile.

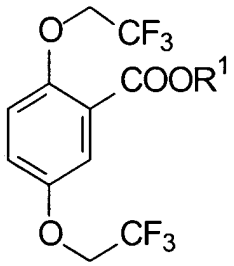
16. (original) The process according to Claim 13, wherein the reaction temperature is between 0°C to 150°C.

17. (original) The process according to Claim 13, wherein the temperature is between 50°C to 120°C.

18. (original) The process according to Claim 13, wherein the molar ratio between 2,5-bis-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)benzoate and 2-aminomethylpiperidine is from 1:1 to 1:2.

19. (original) The process according to Claim 18, wherein the molar ratio is from 1:1 to1:1.5.

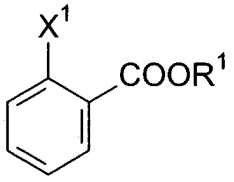
20 (currently amended) The process for the preparation benzoic acid derivatives of formula VI ;



(VI)

wherein R^1 is H, alkali metal or a C_1 to C_9 alkyl group;

from compounds of formula III

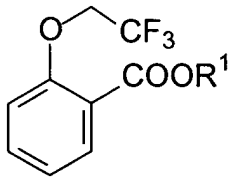


(III)

wherein X^1 is F, Cl, Br or I;

comprising:

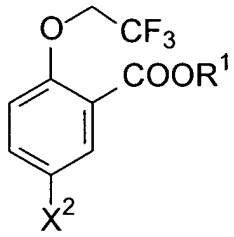
reaction of compounds of formula III with an alkali or alkaline earth metal alkoxide of 2,2,2-trifluoroethanol in the presence of a copper-containing catalyst in a solvent to form compounds of formula IV;



(IV)

wherein R^1 is H, alkali metal or a C_1 to C_9 alkyl group;

halogenation of the compounds of formula IV to form compounds of formula V;



(V)

wherein X^2 is Cl, Br, or I[[.]];

reaction of compounds of formula V with an alkali or alkaline earth metal alkoxide of 2,2,2-trifluoroethanol in the presence of a copper-containing catalyst in a solvent.

21. (original) The process according to Claim 20 wherein either solvent comprises a polar solvent.

22. (original) The process according to Claim 20, wherein the alkali or alkaline earth metal alkoxide of 2,2,2-trifluoroethoxide is sodium, potassium, calcium or lithium 2,2,2-trifluoroethoxide.

23. (currently amended) The process according to Claim 20, wherein the alkali or alkaline earth metal alkoxide of 2,2,2-trifluoroethoxide is synthesized by reacting 2,2,2-triflouroethanol with a base

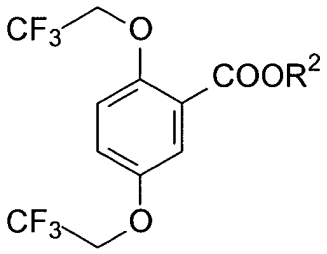
selected from potassium *tert*-butoxide, sodium *tert*-butoxide, sodium isopropoxide and ~~or~~ sodium methoxide.

24. (cancelled)

25. (currently amended) The process according to Claim ~~24~~ 20 wherein the copper-containing ~~copper type~~ catalyst ~~is selected from~~ comprises cupric chloride, cupric bromide, cupric iodide, cuprous chloride, cuprous bromide, cuprous iodide, copper (I) oxide, copper (II) oxide, or copper-zinc alloy ~~and the like~~.

26. (original) The process according to Claim 20, wherein X^2 is Br.

27. (currently amended) The process for the preparation of Flecainide from 2,5-bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)benzoic acid derivatives of formula VII,



(VII)

wherein R^2 is C_1 to C_9 alkyl group, aryl group or succinimidyl and wherein R^2 is not 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl or cynomethyl groups;

comprising the selective amide formation by reacting the benzoic acid derivative of formula VII with 2-(aminomethyl)piperidine.

28. (original) The process according to Claim 27, wherein the reaction is carried out in aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or aromatic solvents from 5 to 10 carbon atoms or ethers from 4 to 10 carbon atoms.

29. (currently amended) The process according to Claim ~~27~~ 28, wherein the solvents are selected from hexane, heptane, cyclohexane, tetrahydrofuran, 1,2-demethoxyethane, diethyleneglycol dimethyl ether, toluene, xylene, acetonitrile.

30. (currently amended) The process according to Claim ~~27~~ 28, wherein the solvent is toluene or xylene.

31. (original) The process according to Claim 27, wherein the reaction temperature is between 0°C and 150°C.

32. (original) The process according to Claim 27, wherein temperature range is between 50°C and 120°C.

33. (original) The process according to Claim 27, wherein the molar ratio between the benzoic acid derivative and 2-aminomethylpiperidine is from 1:1 to 1:2.

34. (original).The process according to Claim 33, wherein the molar ratio is from 1:1 to 1:1.5.

35. (original) 5-Bromo-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)benzoic acid.